REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that Claims 1 through 24 are pending in the application and the Examiner rejected all claims.

Claim Rejections, 35 U.S.C. '103

Claims 1-6, 8-10, 12-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,950,990 to Rajarajan et al. ('Rajarajan) in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0093537 to Bocioned et al. ('Bocioned). Claims 7, 11 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rajarajan in view of Bocioned, further in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,010,593 to Raymond ('Raymond).

The Present Invention

The present invention concerns a web-based graphical user interface (GUI) for provisioning hardware resources in a computer network. Page 4, lines 1-5 of the specification define the term 'provisioning to refer to managing, allocating, and initializing resources for a network using some type of network management system. For instance, provisioning may include setting-up physical links or service channels among network elements through the use of a network management system. In one exemplary implementation, the GUI includes various pages for display. Each page includes a first area containing a graphical workflow indicator that provides an ordered list of user-selectable tasks associated with performing provisioning of remotely located computer hardware resources to integrate the resources into a computer network. Each page also includes a second area containing

display information and/or parameter fields associated with a particular one of the user-selectable tasks. Accordingly, when a particular one of the user-selectable tasks is selected from the first area, the display information and/or parameter fields necessary to complete provisioning operations associated with the particular one of the user-selectable tasks are presented in the second area.

U.S. Patent No. 6,950,990 to Rajarajan et al.

U.S. Patent No. 6,950,990 to Rajarajan et al. ('Rajarajan) teaches a method and systemfor displaying information related to a plurality of resources in a network environment. Fig. 3 and column 8, lines 15-42 of Rajarajan disclose that the resources may involve software and/or hardware components and further disclose that each resource manages one or more objects. An 'object is specifically defined on column 8, lines 29-30 of Rajarajan as 'a particular set of data and information describing that data. Thus, an object in Rajarajan isnot a type of hardware. A 'user object is further defined on column 8, lines 30-32 of Rajarajan as data and information 'relating to a particular user in the network and the object may include relationship or meta information about the user ' In the example relating to a user object, the information may identify attributes such as, for example, name, address, title, etc. The user object of Rajarajan doesnot include any data or information relating to any type of hardware.

In accordance with one embodiment, Fig. 5 of Rajarajan illustrates a computer system for selecting the visual arrangement of data and information of a particular user object. The console includes a title bar, a first zone and a second zone. The title bar displays the name of the person whose data is stored in the user object. The first zone displays a list of selectable categories of

personal information stored in the user object. The second zone displays the particular set of personal information that corresponds to the category selected in the first zone. As discussed above, a user object is not a type of hardware. Therefore, Fig. 5 of Rajarajan does not disclose anything whatsoever regarding any type of hardware resource which could possibly be used to provision hardware resources into a network. Thus, Rajarajan does not and could not possibly disclose using anything displayed in Fig. 5 for provisioning hardware resources into a network.

U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0093537 to Bocioned et al.

U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0093537 to Bocioned et al. ('Bocioned) teaches a web page navigation system for sequential task oriented processes, workflow management and user specific processes. A network (Internet, Intranet or other network) compatible user interface system supports a process including a sequence of subtasks. The system initiates display of a composite window representing a plurality of overlaid tabbed web page (or application) windows each including a visible tab incorporating an identifier identifying a function provided by a web page or application window associated with a particular subtask of the sequence of subtasks. The visible tabs and corresponding overlaid tabbed windows are sequentially ordered in accordance with the sequence of subtasks. The system initiates display of a subtask web page or application window in the foreground of the composite window in response to user selection of a visible tab corresponding to the subtask web page or application window.

The Examiner Has Not Established a *Prima Facie* Case of Obviousness

In the Response to Arguments on page 8-9 of the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner contends that Fig. 5 of Rajarajan 'clearly teaches a list of user-selectable tasks (e.g., controls) associated with certain of resources (e.g., objects) (column 15, lines 211), said resources being hardware resources (e.g., printers, workstations) (column 8, lines 25-36). This is what is read a hardware provisioning. Applicants respectfully dispute the Examiner s interpretation of Rajarajan as well as the Examiner s interpretation of the phrase hardware provisioning. Nowhere does Rajarajan even suggest that Fig. 5 pertains to hardware resources such as printers and workstations, as asserted by the Examiner. Rather, Fig. 5 of Rajarajan pertains only to user objects. The only data which is displayed in Fig. 5 is the name and phone number of John Doe s personal data included in a user object. Thus, the controls disclosed of Fig. 5 of Rajarajan have nothing to do with the printers and workstations disclosed column 8, lines 25-36 of Rajarajan or any other type of hardware resource. Additionally, the Examiner incorrectly asserts that an object is a type of hardware resource when, as discussed above, an object merely consists of data and information and the user objects of Fig. 5 merely consist of personal data and information. Therefore, Fig. 5 of Rajarajan has nothing to do with hardware, let alone hardware resource provisioning, as recited in the claims of the present application. Applicants are unclear as to how the Examiner contends that that the display in Fig. 5 showing user-object data (John Doe s name and phone number) could possibly be used to provision hardware resources into a network.

The Examiner further contends that 'Rajarajan clearly teaches using the interface shown in Figure 5 to manage the API of a hardware resource to allow communication between the resource

itself and a separate computer system (column 8, lines 15-25) thus creating a network. However, not only does Fig. 5 of Rajarajan have nothing whatsoever to do with any type of hardware resource, but the phrase allow communication between the resource itself and a separate computer system is not the same as provisioning hardware resources as recited in the claims of the present application.

Allowing communication as used in Rajarajan merely means that communication is possible between the resource and a separate computer. On the other hand, as discussed above, provisioning hardware resources refers to tasks that must be actively completed in order to set up a network such as setting-up physical links or service channels among network elements. Merely disclosing that communication is possible between a resource and a computer, as in Rajarajan, is not the same as actively provisioning hardware resources into a network as recited in the claims of the present application. Nowhere does Rajarajan disclose the actual provisioning of any hardware resources into a network, let alone displaying web-based pages that are used for such provisioning.

The addition of Bocioned does not provide the missing teachings or suggestions. In fact, Bocioned is directed toward sequential task oriented processes and workflow management. Bocioned is completely silent on the idea of provisioning of hardware resources in a computer network.

Each independent claim specifically recites these novel elements, neither taught nor suggested by the cited art. Accordingly, each independent claim, and all claims depending therefrom, distinguish over the cited prior art and are in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

The present invention is not taught or suggested by the prior art. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of the claims. An early Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 19-5425.

Respectfully submitted,

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